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R. Daniel Davis, D.P.M.  
President  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
9312 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814-9200

RE: Request for Special Consideration to Publish My APA Address on Website

Dear Dr. Davis:

In the midst of your busy schedule, please take a moment to consider (and approve!) my special request to publish on my website the text of my keynote address to the APA, as appearing in the APA Journal, March 1975.

To let you know that I'm not some "random outsider," let me share some unusual credentials:

I humbly received a Special Professional Service Citation from grateful and concerned senior leaders at the APA, especially Tedi Clarke:

"For humanistic sensitivity and awareness . . . For intuitive vision, in identifying a void in comprehensive health care . . . For integrity, perseverance and fortitude, in reporting the deficit in professional understanding and cooperation, and for commitment to both allopathic and podiatric medicine, for the sake of their commensurate, and of their common consumer."

I proudly received a treasured Commendation from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine:

"For [my] efforts leading to the formation of liaison between the Student American Medical Association and the American Podiatry Students Association."

And most especially, I was presented with Resolution No. 25 adopted by the 1974 American Podiatry Association House of Delegates upon recommendation by the American Podiatry Students Association and the APA Board of Trustees:

"Whereas, improved relationships between allopathic and podiatric medicine are important to the advancement of both professions, and

"Whereas, knowledge of the changes with and advancement of each profession should be shared, and

“Whereas, the Student American Medical Association Resolution No. 40 (1974) establishes a liaison between allopathic and podiatric medicine to effect this improved communication, and

“Whereas, this special resolution was the work of an individual within the allopathic medical field, and

“Whereas, this individual showed unique initiative in developing and presenting the resolution which is of great significance to podiatric medicine,

“Therefore be it

“Resolved that this House of Delegates honor John Parks Trowbridge as truly an outstanding individual and true friend of podiatric medicine.”

My special circumstances would appear to justify a waiver of the general restriction on republishing articles from your professional journal. While a medical student at Western Reserve in the early 1970s, I was blessed to become friends with several of the podiatric medical students literally up the street. As its first National Trustee, I arranged for the Student American Medical Association to create a formal liaison with the American Podiatric Students Association. This fruitful affiliation blossomed to where I met and developed a dynamic relationship with senior podiatric physicians leading the APA.

I was honored with an invitation to give a keynote address to the House of Delegates of the APA, the text of which was published in your March 1975 edition: “Look to the Youth to Look to the Future.” A copy is enclosed for your convenience.

My relationship with Tedi Clarke, president of the APA, led to an unexpected proposition: to enjoy a one-week clerkship in his office in the spring of 1976. Funny story: I applied to Western Reserve for transcript credit for that week, which had followed my stint at the NIH. The dean of students called me in shortly . . . “Tell me about your training with Dr. Clarke.” I bragged about operative successes and patient results, and he said – “Okay, what’s your agenda?”

For the last two years of training, I had been quite active politically, serving as a liaison to several professional association boards of directors . . . especially the APA. I shared with the dean my various experiences – including that it made no sense to me that we had 4,000 feet in our university hospital up the block . . . but podiatry students literally across the street were not allowed to touch them.

Dean Horrigan replied, “Point taken – so it’s okay with you if we don’t post a credit on your transcript?” “Sure, so long as . . . ‘point taken.’” That was April 1976.

I sincerely believe that my agitation over those years helped create the climate for the AMA board to engage in serious discussions with the APA board, for which I had quietly lobbied. By 1979, as I was entering practice, podiatrists were welcomed into membership on the professional staff of allopathic and osteopathic hospitals across the county. Mission accomplished.

Your association has an understandable policy that APMA Journal articles are not be reprinted in other locations. Abstracts might be reproduced – but my keynote address has no abstract.

Further, I have not been able to locate a “pdf” or any other “copy” of my speech text available online, so it is literally invisible even to those who might seek to find and read it.

As I come to the sunset years of my professional career, I have reflected much on what I have really accomplished, what really has made a difference in the lives of patients. Helping to fashion closer professional (and even personal?) relationships between physicians and podiatrists certainly stands out as a major contribution to the health and wellbeing of countless patients I will never see or even hear about.

Personally, I remain frustrated that fewer people know about the incredible talents and successes of podiatrists, who are “dynamic” doctors not “static” picture-takers. Clearly you know about whom I am referring!

In all honesty, the thousands of people who visit my long-established website will never “link-over” to read some keynote address dealing with the status of podiatric medicine and surgery in the 1970s – it won’t appear relevant to their situation. This is all the more so when the text is difficult to find or perhaps not even available online. So . . . *they* won’t become any the wiser.

I’ve asked my webmaster to consider the best location for my commendations – quoted for you at the beginning of this letter – which I want to include as context for my keynote address. With your permission, posting the article (it’s still a pretty good read, if you ask me) on my site would mean those who visit and search my site – or who happen to search for podiatry in their web browser – will have a decent chance to come across “something completely different.” In the best of all possible worlds, that means that their friends and family and future contacts would have a reasonable opportunity for true specialty care that could dramatically help their discomforts and disabilities.

Point taken?

Cordially,

John Parks Trowbridge M. D., FACAM

JPT:lt

Enclosure – APA Journal article, March 1975: “Look to the Youth to Look to the Future”